

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-05 ACDA-07 SSO-00 /094 W

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R 081110Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6111

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

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E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: RH PDEV UK SL

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: APPROACH TO HOST GOVERNMENTS

1. SUMMARY: ACTING BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER ALAN CLARK AND I CALLED ON PRESIDENT STEVENS SEPTEMBER 7 TO PRESENT OUTLINE OF RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS. FOLLOWING PRESENTATION PRESIDENT INDICATED THAT SIERRA LEONE WILL DO EVERYTHING IT CAN TO ASSIST. IN PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED LATER IN THE DAY PRESIDENT STEVENS INDICATED SIERRA LEONE'S WILLINGNESS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ZIMBABWE FORCE. END SUMMARY.

2. UPON RECEIPT REFTEL I GOT IN TOUCH WITH MY BRITISH COLLEAGUE, CLARK, WHO WAS UNINSTRUCTED. HE IMMEDIATELY REQUESTED INSTRUCTIONS AND WAS ADVISED ON SEPTEMBER 3 THAT HE SHOULD SEE PRESIDENT STEVENS TOGETHER WITH ME AND THAT FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS WOULD FOLLOW. THESE HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVED TO DATE. CLARK AND I AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO PRESENT THE PROPOSALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO WE PROCEEDED ON THE BASIS OF INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REFTEL. HE PREFERRED, HOWEVER, TO WAIT FOR
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THE RECEIPT OF THE WHITE PAPER ITSELF (DUE SEPTEMBER 8) BEFORE PRESENTING COPIES OF THE ANNEXES.

3. PRESIDENT STEVENS, ACCOMPANIED BY FOREIGN MINISTER CONTEH AND IN THE PRESENCE OF PRESS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS, RECEIVED US AT 1100 SEPTEMBER 7. CLARK MADE AN EXCELLENT BUT BIREF SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSALS AND HANDED PRESIDENT

COPIES OF THE SUMMARY AND FCO SECRETARY OWEN'S STATEMENT ON LAW AND ORDER. FOLLOWING HIS PRESENTATION I SAID THAT I WAS PRESENT ON INSTRUCTIONS TO INDICATE THE COMPLETE SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS. I SAID THAT WE BELIEVED IT IMPORTANT TO MOVE AHEAD ON THESE PROPOSALS IN ORDER TO AVOID ADDITIONAL BLOODSHED, CIVIL WAR AND FURTHER INTERNATIONALIZATION OF THE CONFLICT. IN REPLY TO OUR PRESENTATION THE PRESIDENT SAID HE WELCOMED THE JOINT ENDEAVORS OF THE TWO POWERS AND ADDED THAT SIERRA LEONE WISHES TO DO ANYTHING IT CAN TO ASSIST IN THE SETTLEMENT PROCESS.

4. LATER IN THE DAY THE PRESIDENT ISSUED A PRESS STATEMENT (SEE TEXT SEPT-1) IN WHICH HE INDICATED THAT THE PROPOSALS QUOTE IMPRESS ME BOTH IN TEXT AND SUBSTANCE AS A CONSTRUCTIVE FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH, SETTLEMENT BASED ON MAJORITY RULE AND INDEPENDENCE FOR ZIMBABWE, HAS MORE THAN A REASONABLE CHANCE OF SUCCESS. UNQUOTE. THE PRESIDENT ALSO STATED THAT SIERRA LEONE IS WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ZIMBABWE FORCE AS CONTEMPLATED IN THE PROPOSALS BUT IN A RATHER CURIOUS AND UNAMPLIFIED SENTENCE NOTED QUOTE AS THE SAME TIME ALL THINGS CONSIDERED WE BELIEVE THAT THE TERMS AND PROPOSALS COULD BE IMPROVED UPON FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE OPPRESSED MAJORITY UNQUOTE. (NOTHING ON THIS WAS SAID LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DURING OUR MEETING WITH HIM.) HE NOTED, IN ADDITION, THAT THE PROPOSED ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT FUND ALONG WITH THE MEASURE PROPOSED FOR SECURITY, COULD ENSURE A PROPEROUS START INTO THE FUTURE OF AN INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE. FINALLY, THE PRESIDENT REAFFIRMED SIERRA LEONE'S UNFLINCHING SOLIDARITY WITH THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS (NOTE THAT HE DID NOT REFER TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT) IN ZIMBABWE.

5. COMMENT: IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT THE PRESIDENT WELCOMED THE MEETING NOT ONLY FOR ITS CONTENT BUT BECAUSE IT GAVE HIM AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE PUBLICLY THAT THE POWERS WERE CONSULTING HIM ON A PRIME INTERNATIONAL ISSUE. HE WAS AFFABLE AND CLEARLY PLEASED WITH THE PROPOSALS. COPIES OF THE DOCUMENTS HANDED TO HIM HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN GIVEN TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS SO HE KNEW IN ADVANCE WHAT TO EXPECT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFORMATION EXCHANGE, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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